

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of November 19, 2014  
Approved December 17, 2014

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, Phil Goff, Ron Sender and Stephan Miller. Board member absent was Doug Greenfield. Also in attendance were Officer Matt Riley and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Introductions and greetings all around the table.

COBWEB Officer, Matt Riley. Matt supplied us with the statistics we requested at the last meeting. In 2013, there were 113 bicycle violations and in 2014 there were 29 (so far) in Arlington. Matt could not tell us how many of these violators got citations and how many got warnings. Scott mentioned that in the past, the signal at Foster / Linwood was traffic actuated, but did not respond to bicycles, while now, apparently due to the Mass Ave work, it is running on fixed time, so that all users are served.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Report. Scott gave us a summary of TAC's thinking on the Lake St. Bikeway crossing. He had suggested that an officer direct traffic at that intersection to see whether this facilitates traffic flow before the Town spends >\$100K on a traffic signal. He also told us that TAC has not yet taken a vote on this issue. Matt told us that if it was he directing traffic, he would try to synchronize with the signals at Brooks Ave. Phil told us the East Arlington Livable Streets group (EALS) is concerned about potential cut-through traffic that may be facilitated by the new signal. He added that an advantage to the current setup is that traffic really slows down (both Bikes and Autos) which is safer for the neighborhood. EALS feels that signalizing will promote more speeding for both modes, and could lead to more-serious conflicts between Alewife-bound cyclists and children walking to the Hardy School during weekday mornings. Christopher asked what Phil's preferred solution is. Phil said that he would like to see police directing traffic at peak hours, at least for a while.

Roadway marking guidelines— Bicycle Accommodation Road Design Matrix. Scott informed us that the roadway marking guidelines have never been presented to the Board of Selectmen (BoS). He also recommended incorporating these guidelines into the Complete Streets Policy. Joey asked us to send in comments about incorporating the Complete Streets Policy into the town's Master Plan. Scott told us that a recently enacted state law provided incentives to cities and towns that implement a Complete Streets Policy.

Christopher asked what the final plans for the redesign of the Bikeway connections in Arlington center look like. We thought that the last iteration of the plan we saw is the final plan. We asked Joey to see to the posting of the final plan on the Town's web site.

Tri-Community meeting. Christopher filled us in on the people who attended the meeting. Jack thought it was a well run meeting and informative. Representatives from each town summarized bike related activities being done in their towns. Joey thought that these meetings have facilitated communication between bike activists in the area. Joey also told us that Lexington is proceeding with a study, facilitated by the Toole Design Group, about signage on the Bikeway. This contract will not be executed until the 2015-2016 time frame. Joey also told us that our Town Manager would like to allocate some funds for signage along the Bikeway Arlington.

Gold's gym access to the Bikeway. Joey has not contacted the manager of the building housing the gym. She did speak to the planning director who suggested that we write up a summary of the problem and allow the Town Counsel and the Board of Selectmen (BoS) to handle the problem. Scott thinks that something could be done on the Bikeway right-of-way to make the entrance safer such as a highly visible barrier that people would have to go around to enter the Bikeway. We also discussed whether warning signs could mitigate the danger.

Letter to the BoS about litter around Arlington Liquor. Stephan volunteered to draft a letter and got suggestions about what to include in the letter.

\*it was moved that ABAC send a letter to the BoS about the litter behind Arlington Liquor on Summer St.

Trash receptacles along the Bikeway—a list of locations. Joey asked us to make a list of locations for trash cans to be placed along the Bikeway. The positions should be accessible to large trash trucks. We should have a list by the spring. Joey will check with the DPW to make sure that the recommended trash can locations on the Bikeway are accessible. Jack suggested a delegation of 2-3 of us to ride along the Bikeway and look for likely locations. Jack, Stephan, Ron and Doug volunteered.

Tax bill insert suggesting the use of lights and reflective clothing while cycling. We would like to put a flier in the town property tax bills to encourage the use of lights and reflective clothing for bikes and pedestrians. Joey told us that we have to discuss this possibility with the Town Treasurer. If we get permission, we then have to create the insert. Scott volunteered to work on the content and Ron asked whether school distribution of the information is also a possibility. Phil thought we should work with the School Committee to further that end. Phil then volunteered to work on school distribution.

Winter Social for 2015. Phil told us that he has asked people such as David Watson, Jackie Douglas, Wendy Lamin (from Walk Boston) and others to participate in the panel discussion about bicycle/pedestrian interactions. He told us most of the people he asked have accepted. He then asked if we thought that we need a representative of the Department of Conservation and Recreation? Joey suggested we also invite a representative of COBWEB from the Arlington Police Department. Phil will select a date for the event when all the participants can attend. Christopher suggested the back room at the new Restaurant, Common Ground, as possible venue. This room would have the added attraction of a bar.

Town Master Plan. Joey asked us to look at the Master Plan on the town website. She hopes that we will, at least, submit comments, due by Dec 1, on the transportation section. Phil had some questions about some of the recommendations included in the plan for contra-flow bike lanes. He also felt the Master Plan should include a schedule for renewing and improving the Town's LAB rating. Joey pointed out that we need a lot of support from the Town to achieve the next higher (silver) level. We reviewed the improvements in bicycle accommodations in Arlington since our last application. Scott thought it is very important to emphasize a complete streets policy. Phil reminded us that there are also pedestrian friendly certifications that can be applied for. We concluded that we will send in individual comments about the plan because there is not time to send in comments from the committee.

Future capacity of the Bikeway. Scott told us that given the mix of users, congestion on a bikeway behaves differently from that on a road. He felt that widening portions of the bikeway in Arlington would be useful for increasing capacity. Christopher suggested that this possibility could be incorporated into the Master Plan. Stephan wondered if a rock dust expansion would actually be used by pedestrians.

Moving together conference held on October 10. Jack told us that the main sessions were not as informative as last year's, but a few of the presentations were very good. He particularly appreciated the talk given by Beverly Scott (the MBTA director) which he found inspirational. He also appreciated the break out sessions. He told us that Cambridge is installing the first automated bike counter on Hampshire St. but admits that the best method is manual counting.

Annual Report. The report is due in January. Christopher will draft the report and send it around for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36.

\*Denotes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller